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plish the purposes for which it was intended, and that the Cullom bill is approved as providing for amendments "necessary to the protection of the public and the carriers." Whatever may be done with the additional amendments suggested by the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange, it may not be denied that the Cullom bill should be passed if the Interstate Commerce Commission is to adequately perform the duties for which it was originally created.

PATIENCE OVERWORKED

In response to the familiar local complaints of the failure of sprinkling contractors to comply with the provisions of their contracts a petition and long-suffering public is informed that the delinquent contractors are awaiting the equipment necessary to the proper performance of the work. This is a new excuse, and will doubtless prevail to stave off for a time the protests of the disappointed citizens of a persistently misgoverned city. It is questionable, when new complaints shall be received, new excuses will be forthcoming. The limit to this sort of thing is merely the stock of patience possessed by St. Louisans and St. Louis patience under misgovernment is apparently inexhaustible.

It is this patience which has made of St. Louis a city that to quote Mayor Ziegenhain's own words "has no streets, only roads." It is this patience which accounts for city institutions that are a disgrace to the municipality, city revenues that are inadequate because of corrupt franchises, and a stuffed treasury; a big deficit in the Supply Department chargeable to "spoil requests"; municipal extravagance illustrated by live birds aggregating over \$50,000 per annum; Municipal Assembly jangles with the lighting problem now eliminated in the serious sacrifice of the general welfare; an attempt to solve the filtration problem for the benefit of private contractors. It accounts, in short, for the shameful fact that St. Louis is today probably the worst governed city in the United States.

blame for these conditions rests primarily upon a top-sprouting people. St. Louisans have themselves to thank for their misgovernment. They will be misgoverned just as long as they are willing to be misgoverned. They will secure good government just the moment they insist upon good government and are content with nothing less. How long will the patience of St. Louis last?

FOR PARTY REASONS.

President McKinley, Senator Hanna and others of the administration group in Republican leaders now directing the course of their party on the eve of a national election will doubtless rejoice that an agreement has been reached between the clashing Carnegie-Frick interests which will result in the withdrawal of the suit in law threatening to reveal in detail the tremendous profits of protected monopolies.

Pressure brought to bear by Mark Hanna led to the personal conference at which Multinationals Carnegie and Frick arrived at an amicable understanding. It was felt that the Republican party would suffer too severely through the revelations of the Frick trial to allow that suit to be fought out in the courts. Hence the contestants were brought together and persuaded to effect a compromise. As a result, they and others interested with them, are to form a still bigger multimillion-dollar corporation with a capital of \$200,000,000.

This is fine for syndicate Republicanism. A syndicate corporation controlling steel manufacture means a big source of revenue for Republican campaign funds. It also means a strong influence brought to bear on thousands of employees to compel them to vote the Republican ticket. It adds just that much to the strength of the McKinley administration before the people—a strength drawn from syndicate power in money and men. And it shuts off the story of the \$400,000,000 a year profits of a concern for whose protection the American people have been and are heavily taxed.

Vertheless, the Frick-Carnegie suit will figure largely in the approaching campaign. Some very significant facts were brought to light before Hanna succeeded in suppressing it. The people have obtained a sudden view of the workings of monopoly on the inside. It has taught them that "there's millions in it" for the syndicates to keep the Hanna-McKinley crowd in power. And the millions are wrested as tribute from the many for the enrichment of the few.

THEY MEAN TO WIN.

It is in order for faithful representatives of the people in the National Congress to stand firmly and unalterably opposed to the passage of the Hanna-Payne-Frye-Standard Oil ship subsidy bill, designed in the interest of the syndicates at the expense of the people.

The protectionists, through Mark Hanna, are bringing their full influence to bear in behalf of this measure. That influence is being felt to a marked degree. At a recent conference of trust magnates and their tools in Congress the bill has been reshaped to nullify certain amendments intended to limit the power of the trusts. It is now said that Hanna and Representative Payne will make the bill a caucus measure in order to force it through the House.

This is a startling indication of the boldness of the interests for whose sole benefit the ship subsidy bill was framed. That bill places on the American people an additional tax burden of \$200,000,000 for the further enrichment of the protectionists. There is not one good argument in favor of the passage of a measure for public benefit. There is every reason why it should be defeated. The issue now is plain to laudness. Shall the American Congress legislate for the benefit of all the people or for that of a small and already unduly favored class at the expense of the people?

The answer to this question will be found in the Congressional action on the Hanna-Payne-Frye-Standard Oil ship subsidy bill. The people must closely watch the developments leading up to this action. The time is coming when they must insist upon rightful representation in Congress. Syndicate imperialists are being fed upon such strong meat of late that their arrogant contempt for the people's rights is ominous. They must be checked. They are not to become the established gov-

THE KAISER'S PLEDGE

Americans will appreciate the significance of Emperor Wilhelm's cordially expressed approval of the "open door" policy in China as voiced in a recent diplomatic luncheon at the various Ambassadors to his court were entertained in Berlin.

The Kaiser's sentiments, the cable news tells us, were dominant and emphatically announced in conversation with United States Ambassador White, a fact which adds to the weight naturally attaching to such an utterance at this time. "We must all do our best," he is reported as saying, "to establish and maintain an open door in China." And "We are entering upon an era in commerce beyond anything we have yet dreamed of."

The exceptionally frank endorsement of the American policy with regard to China indicates a friendship on the part of Germany's Emperor, which should meet with an equally cordial response on this side. Without entering into any discussion of a probable alliance on a basis, it may certainly be well for Germany to know that the United States will not in harmony with the Kaiser's Government in maintaining the open door in China. The matter is of the utmost importance to American commerce, and should well lead to an amicable understanding by which England, Germany and the United States shall stand together for the individual and general good.

It is evident that William took especial advantage of the opportunity to define Germany's position. The approval of his act by this Government may well be expressed with equal directness of intent. It is an instance in diplomacy where the best results may be attained by a frank spontaneity proving that two Governments stand on common ground in seeking to attain a common purpose.

AND YET HE'S CONSISTENT.

One of the chief charms of life these bright spring mornings is that of taking up one's newspaper at the breakfast table with the sure knowledge that President McKinley will be found to have again changed his position on the Puerto Rican tariff bill.

On the sound old theory that variety is the spice of life, the President is doing much to season existence for his countrymen. His irresponsibility would be doubly refreshing were it not that so many prejudiced persons make an unpleasant habit of it. They won't let the public observer enjoy it to the utmost, because they insist that Mr. McKinley's delightful fluctuations of opinion are humiliating as displayed by the President of the United States.

The injustice of this view must be conceded when it is realized that never before in American history has an American President so plainly proved himself to be a man of the people. On these days when Mr. McKinley has reason to believe that the people overwhelmingly favor free trade for Puerto Rico, he reverses, or thinks he reverses, a shift of public sentiment to the tariff side of the Puerto Rican question. He shifts his sentiment. The man is conventionally accommodating to a pitiful degree. As to his own really and truly belief concerning this or any other issue, he's a regular Mr. To